



Homeland Defense

Edgewood Area – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5423

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command



Overview of Homeland Defense Program

The U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, is the center of the Department of Defense's (DoD) chemical and biological expertise. The command has developed an innovative approach to enhance the capabilities of federal, state and local emergency responders based on lessons learned during operation of the successful Domestic Preparedness Program. SBCCOM's Homeland Defense Business Unit integrates the critical elements of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) installation preparedness, technical assistance and military improved response, and builds upon the solidly proven foundation of the Domestic Preparedness Program.

Domestic Preparedness— The Proven Foundation

The Domestic Preparedness initiative was formed under the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici legislation that provided funding for the Department of Defense to enhance the capability of federal, state and local emergency responders in incidents involving nuclear, biological and chemical terrorism. SBCCOM was the lead DoD agency charged with implementing this objective through training, exercises, expert assistance and an improved response program. Since SBCCOM began executing the Domestic Preparedness Program in 1997, the command has trained over 28,000 first responders in 105 communities, effectively enhancing nuclear, biological and chemical WMD preparedness nationwide. While implementing this effort, it became clear to SBCCOM that key



military bases and special facilities also needed to be addressed as the country moved toward WMD preparedness.

Installation Preparedness— Preparing Your Site

The WMD Installation Preparedness Program provides a comprehensive process for preparing U.S. military installation emergency response personnel to respond to asymmetric attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear warfare agents, mitigating the impact of the attack on the continuity of operations, and restoring vital mission capabilities. This program, successfully piloted at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, significantly increases an installation's WMD terrorism awareness and preparedness, resulting in the likely reduction of casualties and deployment delays caused by a WMD attack.

Technical Assistance— Supporting You With Expertise

When delivering programs and products of an advanced nature, technical support is essential for both the service provider and the customer. The Technical Assistance initiative provides that necessary technical expertise through testing, evaluation, assessments, and knowledge databasing of chemical and biological matters in support of Homeland Defense Business Unit programs. An array of chemical and biological (CB) technical assistance, based on over 70 years of experience, is available to both military and commercial customers. Experts from select fields can be teamed to provide a customized solution. Areas of expertise include, but are not limited to:

- Building / Fixed Site Protection
- NBC Testing Services
- WMD Dissemination Device Awareness Training
- Customized Rapid Prototyping
- Equipment Evaluation

At the customer's request, teams are assembled to tackle complex WMD challenges. For example, building protection capabilities have been used to protect government agency buildings against specific types of attack. Additionally, extensive CB knowledge has been databased and is available for ready access to suit each customer's needs.

Military Improved Response— Enhancing Your Response

Military bases and their surrounding communities have emerged as areas where WMD response training and coordination planning are especially important. The Military Improved Response Program (MIRP) builds on the Domestic Preparedness program and aids in enhancing

DoD's response to a terrorist's use of WMD in a military community. The MIRP's approach, with the involvement of representatives from the various Military Service response communities and the civilian communities surrounding the partnering installations, is to conduct information sharing and functional workshops to address CB response. Military Service response communities include fire/HAZMAT; law enforcement and security; base operations; disaster management; and medical and public health. With the results of the workshops and continued assistance from the Services, the MIRP will develop best practices, suggest equipment lists and, through technical initiatives and exercises, meld the results into a coherent improved response template for CB incidents.

The Domestic Preparedness Program has demonstrated SBCCOM's effectiveness in enhancing the emergency preparedness and response capability of civilian communities for WMD terrorist incidents. A history of research and development dating back nearly a century gives credence to SBCCOM's wealth of CB defense knowledge. With the Homeland Defense Business Unit, SBCCOM takes the next step to bringing its CB and WMD terrorism preparedness resources to you. By leveraging the experience gained through the Domestic Preparedness Program and the Command's decades of expertise, the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command's products and services now are combined and easily accessible to civilian and military communities across the nation and abroad.

For more information, contact the Homeland Defense Business Unit via mail to Commander, U.S. Army SBCCOM, ATTN: AMSSB-REN-HD (E3331/117), 5183 Blackhawk Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424, via telephone at (410) 436-3674, or via e-mail to homeland.defense@sbccom.apgea.army.mil.